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ABSTRACT

This publication describes the rationale for and processes of a 5-day workshop conducted in 1996 to build an understanding about the complexities of information communication technologies (ICT) and development, in order to assist in the preparation of reports for the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD). The introduction covers workshop background and methodology. Chapter 1 discusses five indicators of development: literacy, education, and skills; health; economic welfare; choice, democracy, and participation; and technology. Information and communication technology issues are addressed in chapter 2, including service, economics, regulation, international frameworks, and inherent uncertainties. The next chapter focuses on the combination of ICT and development, including trends and government responsibilities. Chapter 4 discusses basic uncertainties: whether the global community's value systems will become more inclusive or exclusive; and whether individual countries will have a complete or partial response to ICT acquisition and use. Four scenarios for the future of ICT and development that were developed at the workshop are presented in chapter 5. Chapter 6 discusses conclusions. An afterword describes events following the workshop. Three appendices contain contact information for workshop participants; objectives of the UNCSTD Working Group on Information Technology and Development; and a glossary of acronyms and abbreviations. (DLS)

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